

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (currently amended): An electronic musical instrument comprising:

a musical instrument body;

a fingerboard fixed to said musical instrument body;

a plurality of pitch designation operating elements provided on said fingerboard in a manner being capable of being depressed, wherein pitch of musical tones to be generated in each of a plurality of sounding channels is designated according to whether at least one corresponding pitch designation operation element of said pitch designation operating elements has been depressed;

a plurality of timing determination operating elements provided on said musical instrument body, for determining sounding timing for respective ones of the sounding channels;

a musical tone generator that generates musical tones according to operation of said pitch designation operating elements and operation of said timing determination operating elements;

an effect-application operating element provided on said musical instrument body in a vicinity of said timing determination operating elements to switch ON/OFF operations for obtaining a choking effect; and

a controller responsive to the ON operation of said effect-application operating element, for providing control to obtain ~~a choking~~ the choking effect by raising the pitch of a musical tone being generated by a predetermined amount for a channel among all the sounding channels, for which the pitch has been designated by depression of one of said pitch designation operating elements and in which the musical tone is being generated by said musical tone generator, and responsive to the OFF operation of said effect-application operating element, for providing control to obtain no choking effect.

Claim 2 (currently amended): An electronic musical instrument comprising:

- a musical instrument body;
- a fingerboard fixed to said musical instrument body;
- a plurality of pitch designation operating elements provided on said fingerboard, for determining pitch of musical tones to be generated;
- at least one timing determination operating element provided on said musical instrument body, for determining sounding timing;
- a musical tone generator that generates musical tones according to operation of said pitch designation operating elements and operation of said timing determination operating element;
- an effect-application operating element provided on said musical instrument body in a vicinity of said timing determination operating element to switch ON/OFF operations for obtaining a choking effect; and
- a controller responsive to the ON operation of said effect-application operating element, for providing control to obtain ~~a-choking~~ the choking effect by raising the pitch of a musical tone being generated by said musical tone generator by a predetermined amount, and responsive to the OFF operation of said effect-application operating element, for providing control to obtain no choking effect, said controller providing control to vary the pitch of the musical tone during choking according to an operating manner of said effect-application operating element.

Claim 3 (currently amended): An electronic musical instrument comprising:

a base;

a fingerboard fixed to said base;

a plurality of pitch designation operating elements provided on said fingerboard, for designating pitch of musical tones to be generated;

at least one timing determination operating element provided on said base, for controlling sounding timing;

a musical tone generator that generates musical tones according to operation of said pitch designation operating elements and operation of said timing determination operating element;

an arm disposed in a vicinity of said timing determination operating element ~~in a manner being capable of being operated~~ to switch ON/OFF operations for gradually raising the pitch of a musical tone; and

an auto-choking controller ~~that provides~~ responsive to the ON operation of said arm, for providing control to gradually raise the pitch of a musical the musical tone being generated by said musical tone generator during operation of said arm after the operation of said arm is started, and responsive to the OFF operation of said arm, for providing no control to gradually raise the pitch of the musical tone.

Claim 4 (original): An electronic musical instrument comprising:

- a base;
- a fingerboard supported by said base;
- a plurality of pitch designation operating elements provided on said fingerboard, for designating pitch of musical tones to be generated;
- at least one timing determination operating element provided on said base, for controlling sounding timing;
- a musical tone generator that generates musical tones according to operation of said pitch designation operating elements and operation of said timing determination operating element;
- an arm disposed in a vicinity of said timing determination operating element in a manner being capable of being operated in a predetermined direction and in a direction opposite to the predetermined direction; and
- an auto-choking controller operable when said arm is operated in the predetermined direction while said musical tone generator is generating a musical tone, to provide control to issue a choking-on instruction to start a choking function, and to gradually raise the pitch of the musical tone during operation of said arm, said auto-choking controller being operable when said arm is operated in the direction opposite to the predetermined direction during execution of the choking function, to provide control to issue a choking-off instruction to turn off the choking function, and to return the pitch of the musical tone being generated by said musical tone generator to an original pitch designated by said pitch designation operating elements before the choking function is started.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 2, wherein said effect-application operating element is ~~operable~~ operable in a plurality of stages, and said controller is responsive to operation of said effect-application operating element, for providing control to vary the pitch of the musical tone during choking according to a stage, out of the plurality of stages, in which said effect-application operating element is operated.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 3, wherein said arm is ~~operatable~~ operable in a plurality of stages, and said auto-choking controller provides control to raise the pitch of a musical tone being generated by said musical tone generator according to a stage, out of the plurality of stages, in which said arm is operated.

Claim 7 (original): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a parameter setting operating element for setting a highest pitch of a musical tone being generated during choking by said musical tone generator, as desired according to a type of scale.

Claim 8 (original): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a parameter setting operating element for setting a highest pitch of a musical tone being generated during choking by said musical tone generator, as desired according to a type of scale.

Claim 9 (original): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a parameter setting operating element for setting a highest pitch of a musical tone being generated during choking by said musical tone generator, as desired according to a type of scale.

Claim 10 (original): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a parameter setting operating element for setting a highest pitch of a musical tone being generated during choking by said musical tone generator, as desired according to a type of scale.

Claim 11 (original): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a vibrato control device for providing control to apply a vibrato effect to a musical tone being generated by said musical tone generator, according to operation of said effect-application operating element.

Claim 12 (original): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a vibrato control device for providing control to apply a vibrato effect to a musical tone being generated by said musical tone generator, according to operation of said effect-application operating element.

Claim 13 (original): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a vibrato control device for providing control to apply a vibrato effect to a musical tone being generated by said musical tone generator, according to operation of said arm.

Claim 14 (original): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a vibrato control device for providing control to apply a vibrato effect to a musical tone being generated by said musical tone generator, according to operation of said arm.

Claim 15 (currently amended): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 1, wherein said effect-application operating element is ~~operatable~~ operable in a plurality of stages including a first stage, and at least one stage lower than the first stage, and said controller provides control to stop application of a choking effect to a musical tone being generated by said musical tone generator when operation of said effect-application operating element shifts from the first stage or a stage higher than the first stage to a stage lower than the first stage.

Claim 16 (currently amended): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 2, wherein said effect-application operating element is ~~operatable~~ operable in a plurality of stages including a first stage, and at least one stage lower than the first stage, and said controller provides control to stop application of a choking effect to a musical tone being generated by said musical tone generator when operation of said effect-application operating element shifts from the first stage or a stage higher than the first stage to a stage lower than the first stage.

Claim 17 (currently amended): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 3, wherein said arm is ~~operatable~~ operable in a plurality of stages including a first stage, and at least one stage lower than the first stage, and said controller provides control to stop application of a choking effect to a musical tone being generated by said musical tone generator when operation of said arm shifts from the first stage or a stage higher than the first stage to a stage lower than the first stage.

Claim 18 (currently amended): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 4, wherein said arm is ~~operatable~~ operable in a plurality of stages including a first stage, and at least one stage lower than the first stage, and said controller provides control to stop application of a choking effect to a musical tone being generated by said musical tone generator when operation of said arm shifts from the first stage or a stage higher than the first stage to a stage lower than the first stage.

Claim 19 (new): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 1, wherein said effect-application operating element is rotatably provided on said musical instrument body, and said controller provides control to obtain the choking effect if said effect-application operating element is pushed up or down at an angle exceeding a predetermined angle, and provides control to obtain no choking effect if said pushed up or down effect-application operating element is returned to an angle which does not exceed the predetermined angle.

Claim 20 (new): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 2, wherein said effect-application operating element is rotatably provided on said musical instrument body, and said controller provides control to obtain the choking effect if said effect-application operating element is pushed up or down at an angle exceeding a predetermined angle, and provides control to obtain no choking effect if said pushed up or down effect-application operating element is returned to an angle which does not exceed the predetermined angle.

Claim 21 (new): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 3, wherein said arm is rotatably disposed in the vicinity of said timing determination operating element, and said auto-choking controller provides control to gradually raise the pitch of the musical tone if said arm is pushed up or down at an angle exceeding a predetermined angle, and provides no control to gradually raise the pitch of the musical tone if said pushed up or down arm is returned to an angle which does not exceed the predetermined angle.